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Imagery analysis report

# Iraq/Iran Military Summary (S)

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12 DECEMBER 1980  
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**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>NOFORN-</b>	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
<b>NOCONTRACT-</b>	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
<b>PROPIN-</b>	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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**IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY SUMMARY, 4-10 DECEMBER 1980 (S)**

1. (S/D) This report updates the most recent<sup>1</sup> in a series of imagery-derived reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict and covers the period [redacted] This report discusses deployed ground forces in the forward area, rear garrison units (Figure 1), airfields, naval bases, commercial shipping, POL facilities, and related activity in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.<sup>2</sup> Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

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**OVERVIEW**

2. (S/D) Imagery of the forward area of conflict during the reporting period showed that Iraqi forces remained in control of the PMP bridge over the Karun River, northeast of Abadan. However, recently identified Iranian forces remained in the area northeast of that bridgehead. Iranian forces still controlled Dezful. There was some repositioning of both Iraqi and Iranian forces in this area. Heavy fighting was still occurring near Pol-E Zohab in the Qasr-E Shirin area.

3. (S/D) Four Iraqi and 15 Iranian rear garrison areas were imaged. Troops were observed training at one facility in Iran.

4. (S/D) Two Iraqi and 18 Iranian airfields were imaged. No unusual activity was observed.

5. (S/D) Naval activity was seen at two Iranian naval/port facilities.

6. (S/D) Seven Iraqi and 12 Iranian POL-related facilities were imaged. New damage was seen at two Iraqi facilities. Observations of a large number of POL trucks and utility vehicles continued at the Rey refinery in Tehran.

7. (S/D) Related activity included heavy vehicular activity at the Iraqi/Turkish border crossing point at Zakhu, the offloading of AAA pieces at Tuwal port facilities in Saudi Arabia, and the presence of Iraqi aircraft in Jordan.

**GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY****Iraq/Iran Forward Areas****Khorramshahr/Abadan Area**

8. (S/D) The cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan and most of the area occupied by the Iraqi armor and mechanized infantry brigades north and east of Abadan were not imaged during the reporting period. Only rear elements (one tank company, two mechanized infantry platoons, and a field-deployed logistics unit) of the force which advanced on Abadan were imaged (Figure 2). In addition, the Iraqi force protecting the PMP bridge over the Karun River 12.5 nm north-northeast of the city was imaged. This armor and mechanized infantry force in the vicinity of the PMP bridge had been reinforced [redacted] However, there was a reduction of at least one FA battalion-plus in the area. One Iraqi tank battalion and one mechanized infantry battalion were on the eastern side of the river, while one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry company, and three FA batteries were on the western side of the river. Additionally, a mechanized infantry company was west of the Karun River, 25 nm north of Abadan. The increase in Iraqi forces around the bridgehead was probably in response to the Iranian forces which had been approaching this area from the north-northeast [redacted] Those Iranian forces, in an area from 16 to 25 nm north of Abadan, consisted of one tank platoon, two mechanized infantry companies, three mechanized infantry platoons, and two FA batteries.

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9. (S/D) One Iraqi mechanized infantry platoon remained 4.5 nm north of Khorramshahr.

**Dezful Area**

10. (S/D) One Iraqi tank brigade and one Iraqi mechanized infantry brigade remained 13.5 nm west of Dezful [redacted] An Iraqi force consisting of one tank company-plus and one mechanized infantry company-plus was newly deployed, northwest of the brigades, 17 nm west-northwest of Dezful since 8 November. A second Iraqi force consisting of two tank platoons and a mechanized infantry company was also newly deployed, south of the brigades, 13 nm southwest of the city, since 8 November. These Iraqi forces were supported by three FA battalions and two FA batteries deployed between 19 nm west and 16 nm southwest of Dezful. The FA units west of Dezful were oriented to the north, possibly toward additional Iranian positions which were not imaged. Iranian forces which remained west of the Karkheh River consisted of two tank companies, two mechanized infantry platoons, one FA battery, and an infantry unit. The FA battery and infantry unit, [redacted] were dug in along ridgelines just northwest of the two tank companies. Roads had been constructed along the streambeds behind the infantry unit.

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11. (S/D) Major elements of an Iraqi tank brigade remained immediately west and northwest of Shush. This tank brigade was supported by three FA battalions between 3 nm west and 5 nm southwest of Shush. Additional Iraqi forces 9 nm to 12 nm west of Shush consisted of one tank company and two mechanized infantry platoons. Air defense for this force was being provided by two SA-6 battalions.

12. (S/D) Iranian forces deployed southwest of Dezful in the Shush area consisted of two tank companies, one tank platoon, one mechanized infantry company, one mechanized infantry platoon, two SP gun batteries, one FA battery, an infantry unit, and an AA battery.

13. (S/D) Iranian forces within 10 nm of Dezful, stretching from the northwest to the southwest quadrant, consisted of two tank battalions, one mechanized infantry battalion, three mechanized infantry companies, five mechanized infantry platoons, three SP gun batteries, two FA batteries, and a supply and transport unit. The probable CP remained in ravines immediately northwest of the city. Six AA batteries remained defensively deployed around Vahdati AB Airfield [redacted] A field-deployed Hawk site, previously reported [redacted] had redeployed to a new position 2.5 nm to the east.

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14. (S/D) One tank company and one mechanized infantry company departed Dezful Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [redacted]

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**Qasr-E Shirin Area**

15. (S/D) Evidence of heavy shelling was observed in areas occupied by both Iraqi and Iranian forces in the Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zohab area [redacted]

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16. (S/D) Only forward elements of the Iraqi armor brigade-minus and mechanized infantry brigade observed [redacted] The forward elements of the armor brigade-minus, consisting of one tank company and one mechanized infantry company, remained 5 nm northwest of Pol-E Zohab. The forward elements of the mechanized infantry brigade, consisting of two tank platoons, one mechanized infantry battalion, and one mechanized infantry company, remained 6 nm west-northwest of Pol-E Zohab. These units were supported by two FA battalions. The remaining unit areas for the brigades were not imaged.

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17. (S/D) Opposing Iranian forces around Pol-E Zahab consisted of major elements of a tank battalion, two mechanized infantry platoons, and two SP gun batteries. The tank company just north of the Qasr-E Shirin/Pol-E Zahab road [redacted] had relocated south of that road [redacted] A tank platoon and a mechanized infantry platoon remained in a valley approximately 6.5 nm southeast of Pol-E Zahab. An unknown Iranian unit was on a ridgeline overlooking the valley 8 nm east-southeast of Pol-E Zahab.

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18. (S/D) No increase in equipment levels, new unit arrivals, or further unit departures were observed at Sar-E Pol-E Zahab Barracks and Brigade Headquarters and Depot [redacted] Elements of the armor brigade remaining in garrison had, however, been repositioned within the installation [redacted] In addition, nine AH-1/AB-214 helicopters and one probable Jet Ranger helicopter were present.

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25X1  
25X1**Rear Areas****Iraq**

19. (S/D) One mechanized infantry company remained at Ash Shuaybah Storage Area Airfield [redacted]

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25X1

20. (S/D) Three HIP and three Alouette helicopters were observed in the Al Basrah area near Ash Shuaybah SA-2 SAM Site [redacted] 5 nm southwest of Shaibah Airfield [redacted]

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25X1

21. (S/D) Forty-nine trucks remained parked throughout Rawanduz Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [redacted] 33 nm northeast of Arbil and 60 nm north-northeast of Kirkuk [redacted]

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25X1

22. (S/D) At least 20 SA-2 canisters were in revetments at Kirkuk SAM Site A31-3 [redacted] The canisters arrived at this unoccupied SA-3 Site, 2.7 nm northwest of K-1 Airfield [redacted]

25X1  
25X1  
25X1**Iran**

23. (S/D) No significant change in ground force unit levels at Shahabad Barracks Depot and Brigade Headquarters [redacted] Two companies of the M-60A1-equipped tank battalion, major elements of three BMP-equipped mechanized infantry battalions, and probably the M-109A1 SP gun battalion remained absent. Numerous additional vehicle revetments were prepared [redacted] Some repositioning of vehicles within the garrison was evident.

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25X1

24. (S/D) Major elements of two tank battalions, elements of one mechanized infantry battalion, and one M-109 SF gun battalion remained out of garrison at Hajjiabad Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [redacted] Elements of two company-sized units and two company-sized mechanized infantry units remained in garrison. Activity levels at the installation remained essentially unchanged from those reported [redacted]

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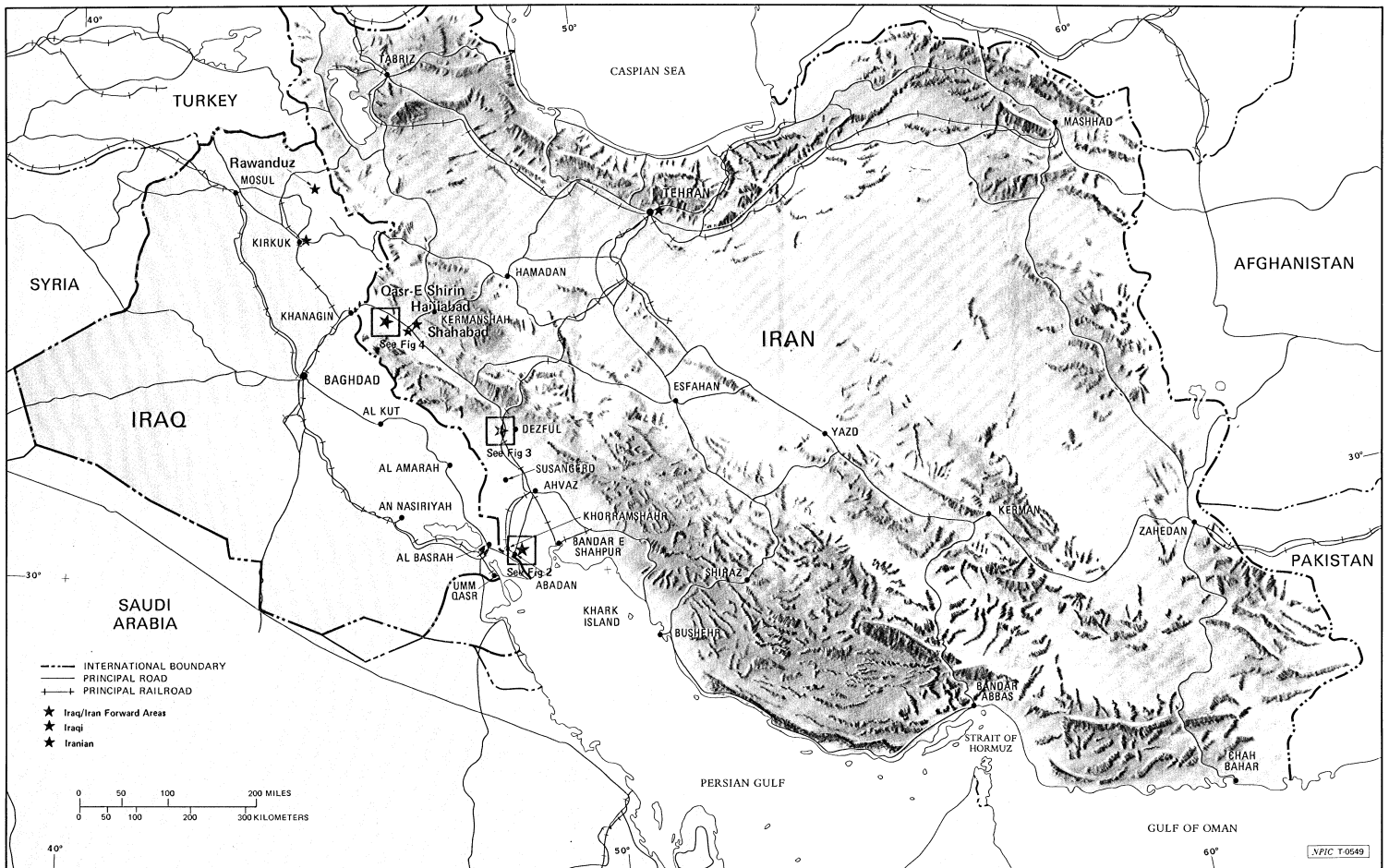
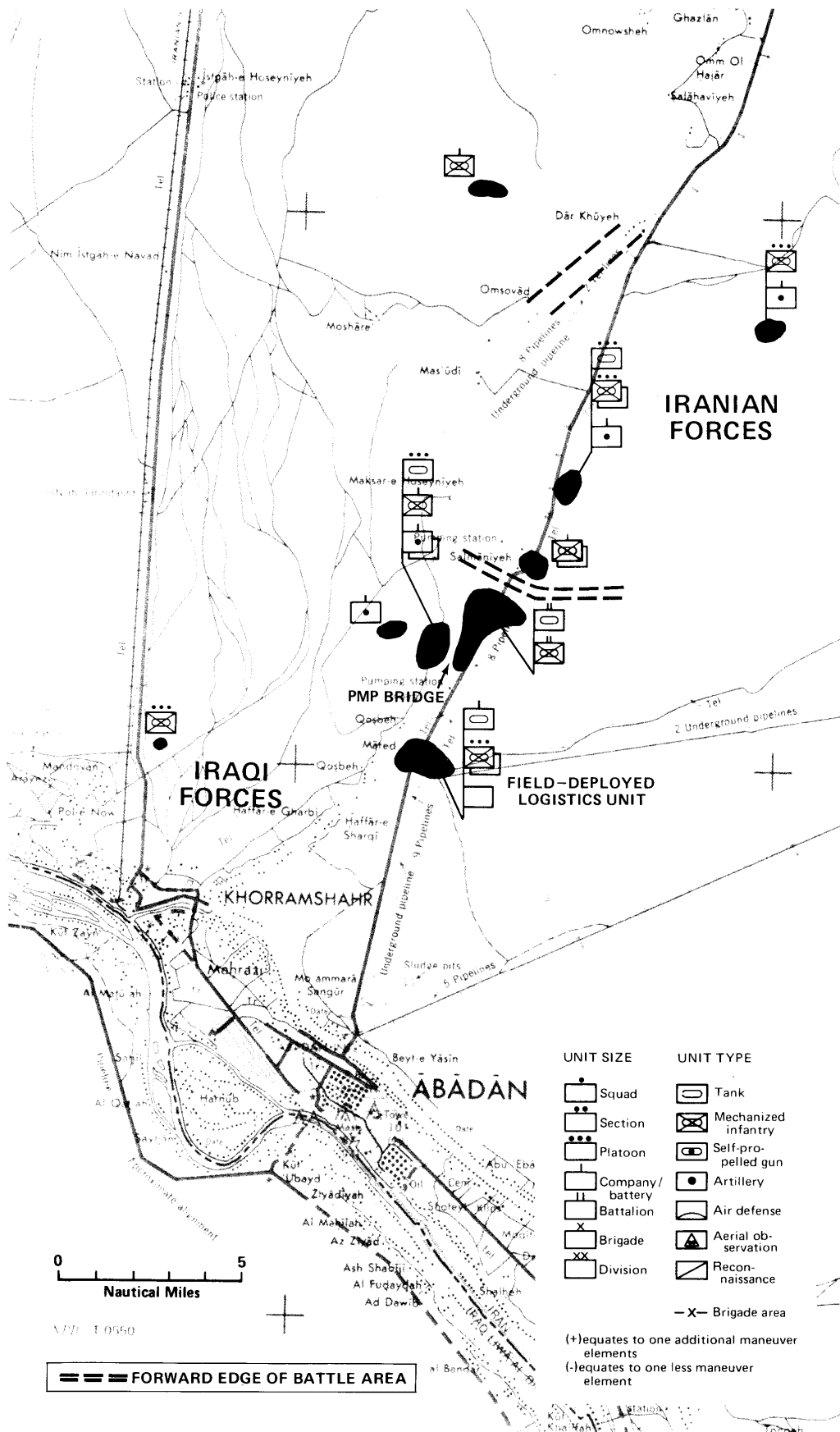


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY

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**SECRET****FIGURE 2. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, KHORRAMSHAHR/ABADAN AREA, IRAN,**

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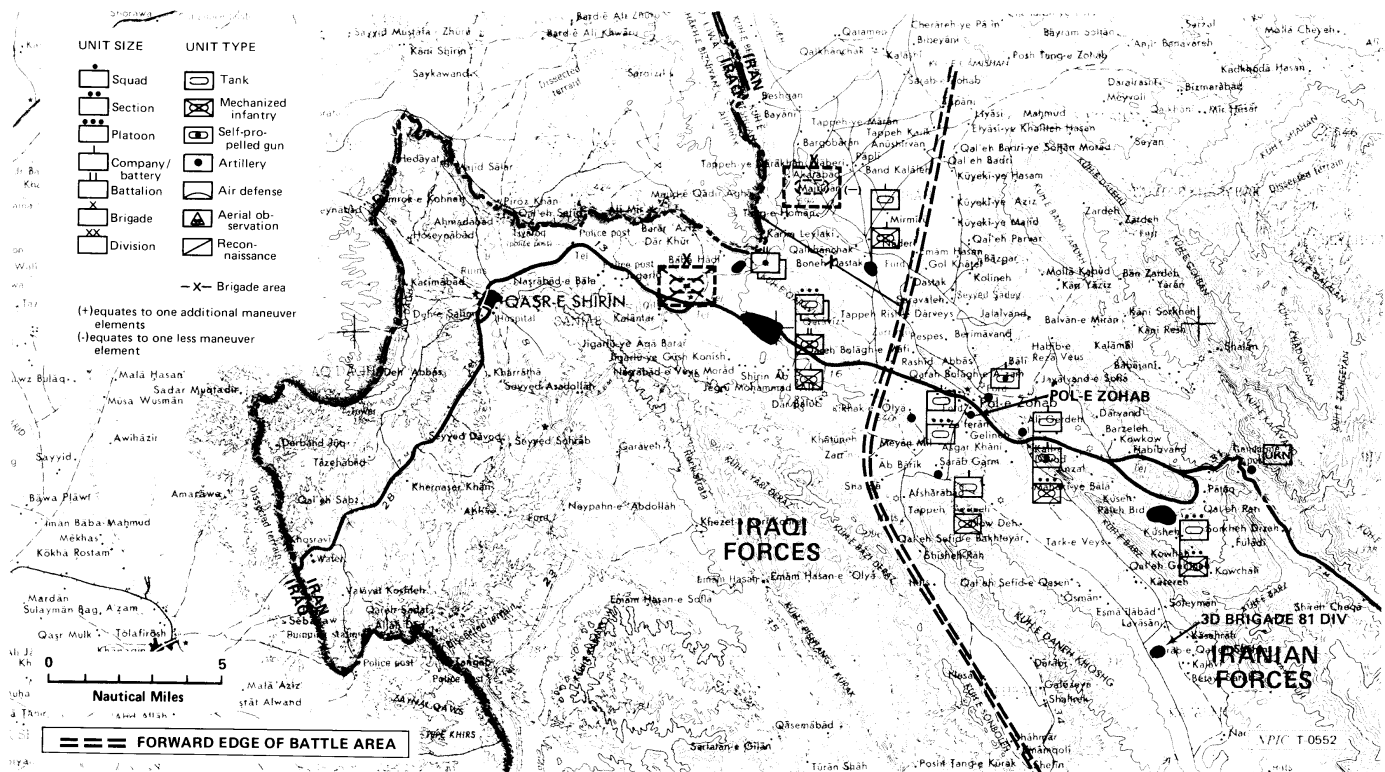


FIGURE 4. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, QASR-E SHIRIN AREA, IRAN.

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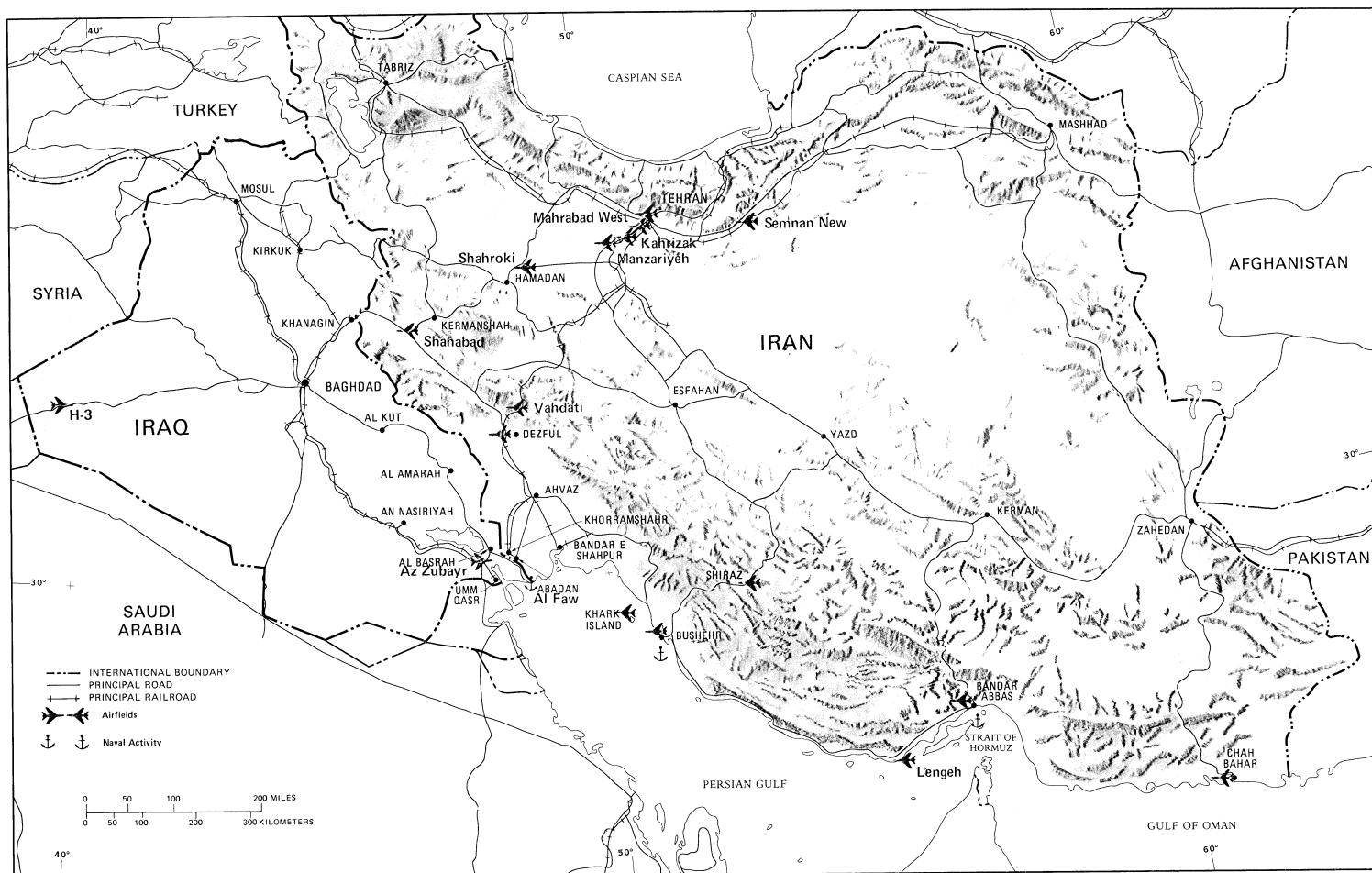


FIGURE 5. IRAQI/IRANIAN AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES

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25. (S/D) Approximately 150 troops were training on a parade field at Tehran Barracks Imperial Guard Brigade Saltanabad [ ] 25X1
26. (S/D) No unusual activity was observed at 12 additional ground forces installations in Tehran [ ] 25X1

**AIR ACTIVITY**

27. (S/D) Two Iraqi airfields and 18 Iranian airfields were imaged during the reporting period (Figure 5). No new damage was observed at any of the airfields.

**Iraq**

28. (S/D) Three of the six positions at an AA site immediately west of H-3 Airfield [ ] were reoccupied with ZPU-2 AA guns [ ] One BLINDER, four FLOGGER, 18 FITTER, 17 FISHBED, one possible FISHBED, one CANDID, one JETSTAR, one HIP, and one HOUND were at the airfield. 25X1
29. (S/D) No significant activity was observed at Az Zubayr Airfield [ ] 25X1

**Iran**

30. (S/D) One F-4 and two small, straight-wing aircraft were observed at Shahroki AB Airfield [ ] 25X1  
[ ] The Rapier site which had been adjacent to the main runway [ ] 25X1  
[ ] was no longer present. Two batteries (two guns each) of 35mm Oerlikon AA guns were newly deployed, increasing the number of 35mm batteries defending the airfield to four. 25X1
31. (S/D) Four ZU-23 AA positions at Vahdati AB Airfield [ ] were reoccupied between [ ] One C-130, three F-5, 11 AH-1 helicopters, and one Jet Ranger helicopter were observed. 25X1
32. (S/D) Military aircraft at Shiraz International Airfield [ ] included six F-14, one possible F-14, four P-3, eight C-130, four AB-214 helicopters, and two small, straight-wing aircraft. Three 707 and two probable F-27 were in the civil area. Defenses around the airfield remained unchanged. 25X1
33. (S/D) One C-130 and one small, straight-wing aircraft were at Bandar Abbas International Airfield [ ] two F-4, one C-130, and one AB-214 helicopter were present. Only one probable AB-214 helicopter was present [ ] 25X1
34. (S/D) The Classic with Cuban civil markings and the 707 with unidentified civil markings seen on [ ] at Tehran/Mehrabad International Airfield [ ] departed [ ] 25X1
35. (S/D) No significant change was observed at the following airfields:
- Bushehr Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Chah Bahar Airfield ( [ ] 25X1
  - Dezful Highway Strip [ ] 25X1
  - Kahrizak Airstrip [ ] 25X1
  - Khark Island Airfield ( [ ] 25X1
  - Lengeh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Mahrabad West Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Manzariyeh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Semnan New Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Shahabad Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Shahabad Highway Strip [ ] 25X1
  - Shahroki AB Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Tehran Doshan/Tappeh Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Vahdati AB Airfield [ ] 25X1
  - Bandar Abbas NAS Airfield [ ] 25X1

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**SECRET****NAVAL ACTIVITY****Iran**

36. (S/D) Two PF-103 PF, two La Combattante-IIB (Kaman) PTG, two probable La Combattante-IIB (Kaman) PTG, and seven MK-III PB were observed through haze at Bushehr Naval Base [ ] 25X1  
[ ] 25X1

**COMMERCIAL SHIPPING**

37. (S/D) One bulk carrier and one coastal/small freighter remained at the piers at Al Faw Port Facilities [ ] near the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab, [ ] No additional damage 25X1  
was observed at the port. One probable tanker was moored in midriver. 25X1

**Strait of Hormuz**

38. (S/D) [ ] one PGM-71 PGM departed and one Hengham LST and two 25X1  
LCU arrived at Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru [ ]. Vessels in port [ ] 25X1  
included one Battle DDG, one Sumner DDG, three Vosper MK-5 FFG (SAAM), one PGM-71 PGM, six  
MK-III PB, six PBR, two Hengham LST (one in the large graving dock), four LCU (one in the small  
graving dock), one Bandar Abbas AORL, one Kangan AWK, one Michaelangelo APB, one Amphion AR,  
and one ARD-T. The LCU was removed from the small graving dock [ ] In 25X1  
addition, two 35mm AA guns were newly deployed 1,500 meters east of the port [ ] 25X1

39. (S/D) In addition to the naval activity, commercial ship activity was also observed at the port 25X1  
during the reporting period. Five general cargo ships, three bulk carriers, one tanker, three coastal 25X1  
freighters, and two special-purpose merchant ships were in port [ ]. One general cargo ship,  
one tanker, and three coastal freighters had arrived [ ] three 25X1  
general cargo ships and one bulk carrier arrived and two general cargo ships and one bulk carrier  
departed.

40. (S/D) A large number of commercial vessels were observed in a holding area in the Persian Gulf  
south of the port facility waiting for quay space. Twenty-three general cargo ships (including one Soviet-  
Pula-class merchant ship), three bulk carriers, one tanker, and three coastal freighters were present [ ] 25X1  
[ ] 17 general cargo ships and three coastal freighters had been present. The 25X1  
holding area was not imaged [ ] 25X1

41. (S/D) Six medium general cargo ships, and two medium bulk cargo ships were at the quay of  
Shah Bandar Abbas Port Facility [ ] Materiel from six of the ships was 25X1  
being offloaded onto trucks. Five additional medium general cargo ships were moored in the protective  
anchorage. Materiel was being offloaded onto barges from three of these vessels. Three of the four  
medium general cargo ships and one of the three medium bulk carriers seen at the quay [ ] 25X1  
had departed.

**POL FACILITIES**

42. (S/D) Seven Iraqi POL-related facilities were observed—three at the mouth of the Shatt Al  
Arab, one at Az Zubayr, and three near Kirkuk (Figure 6). New damage was observed at two facilities,  
and increased air defenses were observed at one facility during the reporting period. Twelve Iranian POL-  
related facilities were imaged—eight in the southwestern part of the country, one near Tehran, two west of  
Kermanshah, and one at Tabriz. No change in status was observed at any of these facilities.

**Iraq**

43. (S/D) Additional battle damage was observed at Khor Al Amaya Petroleum Terminal Facilities  
Al Faw [ ]. One of the major loading islands, one of the minor 25X1  
loading islands, and three sections of walkway sustained additional fire damage [ ] 25X1  
[ ] 25X1

44. (S/D) Additional battle damage was observed at Al Faw Crude Oil Storage Terminal [ ] 25X1  
[ ] Four large, one medium, and one small POL tanks were destroyed since 25X1  
[ ] One large and eight medium POL tanks were afire. This reduces the total capacity of the 25X1  
facility from the original 10,249,100 barrel storage capacity to no more than 6,207,910 barrels.

45. (S/D) Three single-gun AA positions were deployed around Sarbashakh Degassing Station [ ] 25X1  
[ ] in the Kirkuk area, between [ ] 25X1

**Iran**

46. (S/D) One POL storage tank had been destroyed and one was burning at Jazireh Ye Khark

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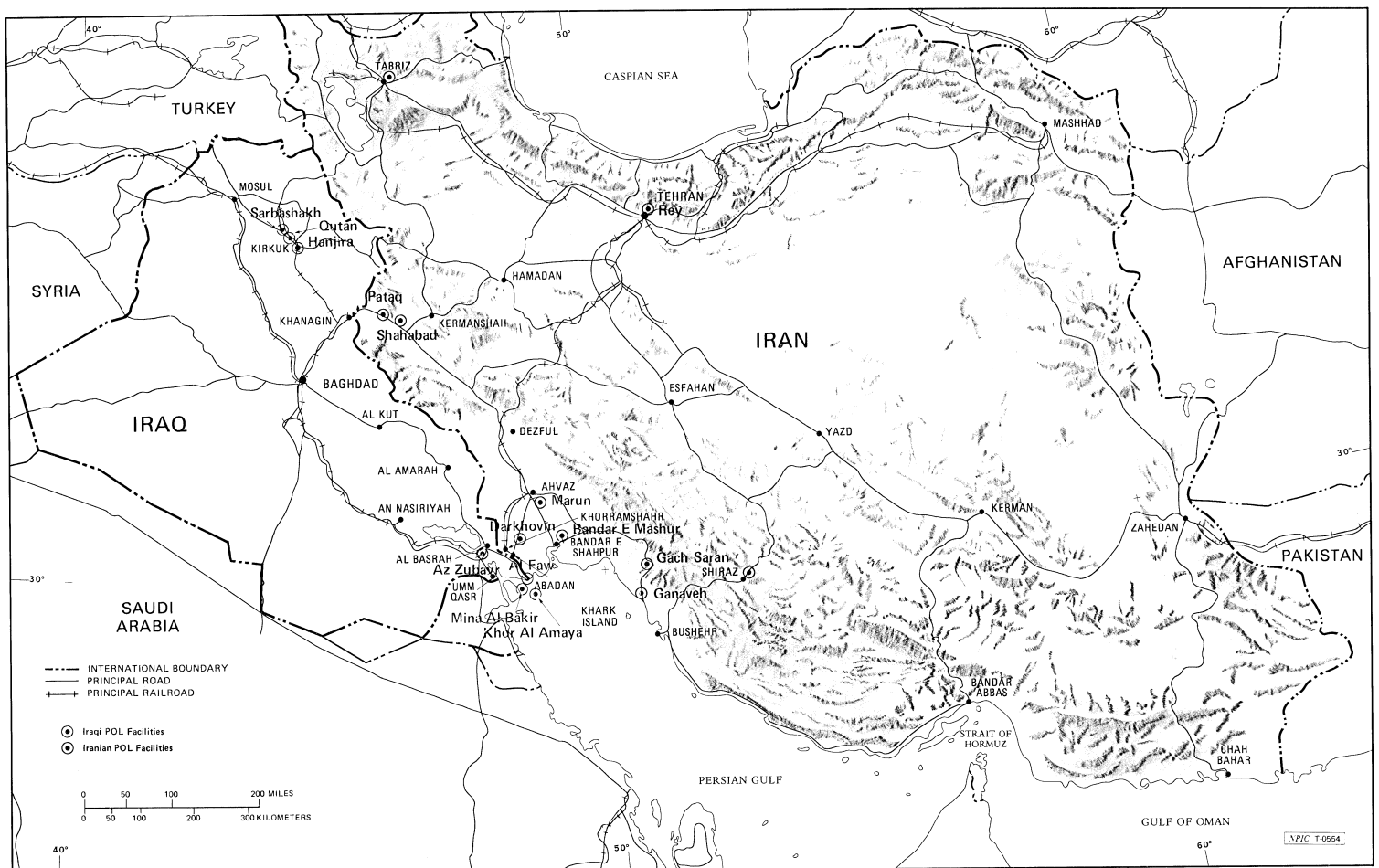


FIGURE 6. POL FACILITIES IN IRAQ AND IRAN

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Petroleum Terminal Facilities [redacted]. Additionally, smoke was emanating from a large spill/slush pond. These storage tanks appeared to be empty and undamaged [redacted] were obscured by smoke [redacted]. The POL storage capacity has now been reduced from the pre-war capacity of 26,024,000 barrels to no more than 25,749,000 barrels. 25X1  
25X1  
25X1

47. (S/D) Approximately 350 POL trucks and utility vehicles were parked in convoy along the road and the perimeter of the pumping station at Rey Petroleum Refinery and [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] This represents a decrease of approximately 150 vehicles [redacted] 25X1

48. (S/D) No change in status was observed at the following facilities:

**Iraq**

Az Zubayr Pump Station Gas/Oil Separation and Storage [redacted] 25X1  
Hanjira Degassing Station [redacted] 25X1  
Mina Al Bakir Port Facilities [redacted] 25X1  
Qutan Degassing Station [redacted] 25X1

**Iran**

Bandar E Mashur Petroleum Product Storage and Gas Plant [redacted] 25X1  
Bandar E Mashur Petroleum Terminal [redacted] 25X1  
Darkhovin Crude Petroleum Pumping Station [redacted] 25X1  
Gach Saran Topping and Stabilization Plant [redacted] 25X1  
Ganaveh Pipeline Valve Control Complex [redacted] 25X1  
Marun Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 3 [redacted] 25X1  
Marun Gas Oil Separation Plant PU 4 [redacted]  
Pataq Petroleum Pumping Station No 3 [redacted] 25X1  
Rey Petroleum Refinery and Storage [redacted] 25X1  
Shahabad Petroleum Pumping Station No 4 [redacted] 25X1  
Shiraz Petroleum Refinery [redacted] 25X1  
Tabriz Petroleum Refinery [redacted]

**OTHER****Iraqi/Turkish Border**

49. (S/D) Vehicular traffic was observed, through heavy cloud cover, at the Iraqi/Turkish border checkpoints in the vicinity of Zakhu Highway Bridge West over Habur Nehri [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] At least 160 trucks and 40 semitrailers, headed south into Iraq, were parked at the checkpoint in Turkey just north of the bridge. At least 50 trucks and ten semitrailers, headed north into Turkey, were also parked at this checkpoint. The Iraqi checkpoint, just south of the bridge, was cloud covered. 25X1

**Jordan**

50. (S/D) Iraqi civil and military aircraft were observed at King Faisal Airfield [redacted] 25X1  
Jordan, [redacted] Three CANDID (two with military and one with civil markings), one civil 727, and one civil 727 were present. 25X1

**Saudi Arabia**

51. (S/D) A Poltava-class cargo ship was at the quay at Tuwwal Port Facility, Saudi Arabia [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] This ship had recently offloaded 18 canvas-covered AAA pieces (possibly 57mm). Saudi Arabia is not known to have 57mm AAA pieces. The final destination for this equipment is probably Iraq. 25X1

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## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*This glossary in its entirety is UNCLASSIFIED*

AA	Antiaircraft
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery
AD	Air defense
AORL	Small replenishment oiler
APB	Barracks ship
APC	Armored personnel carrier
AR	Repair ship
ARD-D	Floating drydock
ARD-T	Auxiliary repair dock
AW	Air warning
AWK	Water carrier
AX	Training ship
CP	Command post
DD	Destroyer
DDG	Guided missile destroyer
DIW	Dead in the water
EW	Early warning
FA	Field artillery
FFG	Guided missile frigate
LCMA	Air cushion medium landing craft
LCM	Medium landing craft
LCU	Utility landing craft
LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship
LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher
MSC	Coastal minesweeper
MSF	Fleet minesweeper
MSI	Inshore minesweeper
NM	Nautical miles
PACV	Patrol air cushion vehicle
PB	Patrol boat
PBA/PCFA	Patrol boat air cushion
PBR	River/roadstead patrol boat
PCL	Small submarine chaser
PCS	Submarine chaser
PF	Patrol frigate
PGM	Motor gunboat
PMP	Heavy folding ponton bridge
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant
PT	Torpedo boat
PTG	Missile attack boat
RTP	Rail-to-road transfer point
RO/RO	Roll-on/roll-off
SAM	Surface-to-air missile
SP	Self-propelled
SPAA	Self-propelled antiaircraft
SPG	Self-propelled gun
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
TEL	Transporter-erector-launcher
TMM	Truck-mounted bridge
VLCC	Very large crude carrier

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**REFERENCES**



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**MAPS OR CHARTS**

DoD. Joint Operations Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

**DOCUMENTS**

1. NPIC. Z-20192/80, IAR-0339/80, *Iraq/Iran Military Summary, 26 November–3 December 1980 (S)*, 4 Dec 80 (SECRET/WNINTEL [redacted])

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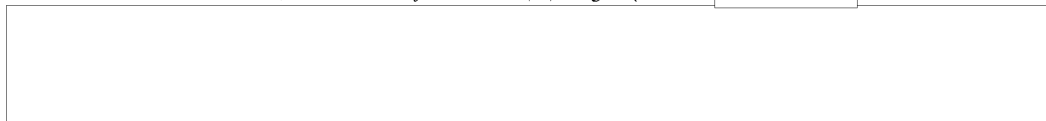
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DIA. DDB-1100-IR-78, *Ground Order of Battle: Iran (U)*, Aug 78 (SECRET/[redacted])

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